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The NANSIGLOS Family

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The Nansiglos Family.

BY

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[*Reprinted from* "MISC. GEN. ET HER.," June, 1923.]

LONDON: MITCHELL HUGHES AND CLARKE,
11-13 BREAM'S BUILDINGS, CHANCERY LANE, E.C. 4.
1923.

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The Nansiglos Family.

PEDIGREE OF NANSIGLOS.

. . . . Nansiglos, Cornwall, probably a descendant of William Nansiglos of St. Madern in the Subsidy of 1327.

- Thomas Nansiglos of St. Andrew, Holborn, London, Churchwarden in 1424; held an inn in Holborn called "The Bishop;" died after 1436. = ...
- Martin Nansiglos of St. Andrew, Holborn, living 1439. = Agnes . . . ., inherited tenements in St. Andrew, Holborn.

  - Richard Nansiglos, sold, with his wife Alice, lands in London in 1485. = Alice, sister and coheiress of William Bonefey, Esq., and probably the granddau. of John Olney, Alderman of London.

    - Robert Nansiglos of London and Methwold, born about 1425; testator of 1465; died 1465, s.p.
    - William Nansiglos, gent., of London, lord of the manor of Redfans, co. Essex; apprenticed to William Cotton of Enfield, co. Middlesex; bought Redfans in 1456; Comptroller of the Great Custom, London, in 1457; died in 1477. = Lucy . . . .
    - Elizabeth, living 1477.

      - Mary, under age in 1477; died after 1542. = Roger Gifford, Esq., of Middle Claydon, co. Bucks.
      - Thomas Nansiglos, at Shaldford on 5 May 11 Henry VII. (1496); inherited his father's lands in Ixning and Newmarket; under age in 1477.

        - William Nansiglos of London, held "The Bishop;" died before 9 Oct. 1521. = ...
        - Elizabeth. = Humfrey Dunham.
        - Alice, under age in 1477.

          - John Nansiglos, Merchant, of London, lost Redfans in 1530; died 1530—1540. = Agnes . . . ., who apparently inherited lands in Northants.

            - William Nansiglos, clerk, at Redfans in 1540.
            - John Nansiglos, living 1555.

The following article gives a brief account of a City family that flourished in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, and acquired some landed property in the eastern counties. While it is not a family of any great importance, it is, nevertheless, one that occupied a very respectable position during the period named, and one that is by no means worthy of oblivion. I must acknowledge my great indebtedness to G. Williams, Esq., of the Prudential Assurance Company, for his most valuable notes and assistance in reference to the earlier generations of the family, without which this article could not be written.

There can be small doubt but that the family originated in the county of Cornwall, and that it was of British origin. The name is composed of two words: Nance (a vale), and eglos (a church). In Cornish the initial N and L are often interchangeable. Hence we get Nanteglos or Nanceglos = Lanteglos, a small hamlet by Camelford in Cornwall (*cf.* Dr. John Bannister's "Glossary of Cornish Names," and Cal. Inq. Post Mortem, 29 Edward I.).

In the first half of the fifteenth century we find the family settled in London, in the parish of St. Andrew, Holborn, where Thomas Nanseglos was churchwarden in 1424.

Our pedigree in the earlier generations rests upon the descent of a certain tenement called the "Bishop," situated in High Holborn at the corner of what is now known as Gray's Inn Road. It was lately known as Bishop's Head Court, with an entrance in Gray's Inn Road, and it backed on to and formed part of the premises fronting on Holborn next to the south-west corner of Gray's Inn Road. At one time it was held by Jacob Tonson, the famous bookseller, and is now occupied by the Prudential Assurance Company.

The following entries from the Rentals and Surveys of the Charter House, preserved at the Public Record Office, relate to it and to the Nanseglos family:—

Portfolio 22, No. 77. Easter, 4 Henry VI. (1426). In Olborn. From Thomas Nansiglos, 9*s*.

(In 1403 one Roger Smith held it.)

Roll 451. Easter, 8 Henry VI. (1430). Thomas Nanseglos for a tenement called le Bychope at the corner of Portpole, quit rent per annum, 9*s*.

Roll 11/23. 18 Edward IV. (1478). Of . . . Nanseglos, son of William Nanseglos, for quit rent issuing from a tenement situated above the corner, now called le Busshop, yearly 9*s*.

Middlesex Feet of Fines.

152/90, No. 73. Octave of Trinity, 14 Henry VI. Thomas Nanseglos, Master Gilbert Worthington, Clerk (D.D., Rector of St. Andrew's), John Sherland, and Robert Nanseglos, querants, vs. Ralph Meddleham and wife Margaret, deforciants, for a messuage, 20 acres of land, 4 acres of meadow, and 8 acres of wood in Willesden. Warranty by Margaret and her heirs.

Middlesex. 152/91, No. 89. Hilary, 17 Henry VI. Robert Nocate (?) and Adam Horell, querants, vs. Martin Nanseglos and Agnes his wife, deforciants, a messuage in St. Andrew's without the bars of the old Temple (*i.e.*, St. Andrew, Holborn). Warranty for Agnes and her heirs.

B 27, F 179, No. 47. Michaelmas, 15 Henry VIII. (1523). William Holgyll, clerk, John Pakyngton, John Remys, and William Smyth, querants, vs. John Nanseglos and Ann his wife, deforciants, 16 messuages, 26 gardens in St. Andrew, Holborn. Warranty against heirs of Ann.

(On 1 September 1529 John Nanseglos, gent., granted to John Hogge and Juliana his wife a tenement called "The George," now the north entrance to Gray's Inn.)

Husting Roll (London).

Roll 215, No. 6. Deed enrolled at a Hustings Court held the Monday after the Feast of St. Agnes the Virgin, 1 Henry VII. Richard Nanseglos, gent., and wife Alice, sister and co-heiress of William Bonefey, Esq., deceased, convey to John Brown and John Fenkyll, citizens and aldermen of London, and William Brown, citizen and mercer of London, all her title in a messuage in Milk Street, parish of St. Mary Magdalene, London, now in the occupation of the said John Brown, where John Olney, alderman, once lived; also all other lands of the said John Olney of the same parish, together with a tenement and two shops in Woodstrete in parish of St. Michael, Hog Lane, London, which belonged to the said John Olney, 16 December, 1 Henry VII. (1485).

London Corporation Records.

Plea and Memoranda Roll, A 82, m. 1 b. 18 January, 37 Henry VI. Grant from John Youngman, brewer, to Master William Westbury, Provost of the Royal College of St. Mary of Eton by Windsor, Robert Nanseglos, Nicholas Lovell, Richard Gylmyn, gentlemen, and Richard Silwode, skinner, of all his goods and chattels.

Duchy of Lancaster Court Rolls. Honour of Clare.

Shalford and the manor of Redfan in Shalford.

Roll 213/59. Shalford Court Leet. Monday of Whit. week, 2 Edward IV. Et quod Nicholaus Beylham intrauit in domum Willelmi Nansecle contra consuetudinem et cepit quendam busellum frumenti. Ideo ipso in misericordia, iii*d.*

Roll 123/1859, fol. 101. John Grey paid a fine for a tenement and land acquired of William Nansecles in Shelford, 8 Edward IV.

Roll 173/68. Thursday, 5 May, 11 Henry VII. Thomas Nenzeglys, John Alen, and others named seek for a day, the next court, and each of them, 6*s.* 8*d.*

Additional Charters, British Museum.

No. 41,514. 5 August, 22 Henry VIII. (1540). Article of inquisition under Statute 8 Henry VI., finding forcible disseisin of a messuage called Redfans in Shalford, co. Essex, by Edward Smyth, late of London, gent., Robert Smyth, late of London, gent., John Payne of Witham, co. Essex, paylemaker, and seven others, against Edward Fox, clerk, one of the King's Council, Roger Wentworth, knt., John Grene, knt., Edward Grene,

No. 41,515. Quitclaim from Richard Frank, burgess and merchant of Lenn Episcopi, son and heir of Philip Frank, formerly burgess and merchant of the same, (who was) son and heir of Richard Frank the elder, late of the said borough, and of Alice his wife, daughter and heir of Joan wife of Nicholas Comspele of Fynchyngfeld, co. Essex, who was the daughter and heir of Robert Robchan, to Thomas Barton, William Nanseglos and their heirs and assigns for ever of all right in a tenement and all the lands and tenements called Redefannes in Shaldeford, Berdefeld, Fynchyngfeld, Wetheresfeld and the hamlet of Asshwell, and in all the lands and tenements, pastures, woodland and marshes formerly in the tenure of Lora de Shaldeford in the same vills, and in all rents issuing therefrom.

16 Nov., 35 Henry VI. (1456).

No. 41,516. Fine between Henry Dacres, plaintiff, and John Nanseglos, defendant, of a messuage, 300 acres of land, 200 acres of meadow, 200 acres of pasture, 200 acres of wood, 100 acres of marsh, and 20s. rent in Shelford, Bardfield, Finchingfield and Weathersfield in Essex.

9 Oct., 13 Henry VIII. (1521).

No. 41,519. Exemplification at the request of John Smythe of a deed dated 25 April and enrolled in the Common Pleas, whereby John Nanseglos of London quitclaims to Edward North all complaints concerning the manor of Redfans (in Shalford, co. Essex), and lands mortgaged to North for £400, including an injunction in Chancery to prevent North from selling to Smyth, which Nansiglos had obtained on the false pretence that he had made a sufficient tender for redemption.

22 May, 22 Henry VIII. (1530).

De Banco Rolls.

Mich., 15 Henry VIII., m. 21 d. Northampton. Thomas Pearpont, citizen and draper of London, gives to King 30 shillings to agree with John Nansiglos and Anna his wife certain lands in Blakesley, Northampton, Mundeford, Addeston and Syleston.

Diary of Henry Machyn, Citizen of London, 1550—1583.

7 Feb. 1555. At the funeral of John Chambre, late Bishop of Peterboro', one of the banner bearers was John Nansiglos, who bore the banner of Our Lady.

Chancery Cases. Early Chancery Proc. Bundle 550/1. 1518—1529.

Nanseglos *v.* Austin.

[Period 1518—1529.] To the most reverend Father in God, Thomas, lord Cardinal legate, a latere Archbishop of York and Chancelor of England. John Nanseglos and George Quarles, complainants, *v.* Richard Austen of London, mercer.

[Full abstract.] The complainants shew that the said Richard Austen agreed to lend John Nanseglos £300, or else to deliver him as much lawful and vendible wares as should amount to the same value upon the security of certain lands. Upon which certain writings and indentures of covenants were made between them, and John Nanseglos was bound to the said Richard in the sum of £500 by writing obligatory of the statute of the staple of Westminster for the repayment of the said £300 by a certain

day appointed in the said indentures. But when the said John Nanseglos came to receive the said £300, the said Richard refused to deliver it, but would have "enfeffed" him with wood, iron and sugar at double their value, to his undoing, if he had received them. Therefore he departed from the said Richard without receipt of money or wares, having utterly refused to have any manner of wares, unless he would be more reasonable in his prices for them. And so he trusted the said Austen to keep the aforesaid statute indentures and all other writings made between them until a day appointed. On which day John Nanseglos came to the house of the said Austen with one of his friends to see the said wares, and was not able to agree with Austen concerning any kind of wares, and so broke the said bargain. But the said Austen refused to deliver the said writings, but kept them contrary to right and conscience, and "upon his unlawful covetous mind" arrested the said John Nanseglos in the city of London upon writs of execution of the said statute and had him there in prison upon the said statute of £500. Whereupon the said John Nanseglos, in order to be freed from prison and to have the said statute of £500 discharged, was forced to be bound, with the said George Quarles as surety for him, to the said Richard in the sum of £60, surmising that he had delivered 16 bales of wool to the use of the said John Nanseglos, whereas in truth neither he nor anyone with his consent ever had a penny or penny's worth from the said Richard. The said Austen has now of late sued and arrested the said George Quarles in the City of London, and there is likely to condemn the complainants in the same action to their utter undoing.

They pray for a writ of subpœna to be directed to Richard Austen commanding him to appear to answer the premises.

In another copy of the bill it is prayed that a writ of certiorari shall be directed to the sheriffs of London commanding them to certify to the King the cause of the orator's arrest.

The Answer of Richard Austen to the Bill of Complaint of John Nanseglos and George Quarles.

He says the suit is determinable at the common law and not in the Court of Chancery. It is true that he should lend the said Nansyglos £300 in wares and upon a bargain of certain manors and lands—the names of which he forgets—particulars of which appear in the said indenture, both parts of which remain with Nansyglos. For the surety of the said covenants the said Nansyglos and one Thomas Asteley were bound to him in the said statute of £500, at which time the wares priced at £300 were shewn to Nanseglos, who was well contented with them, and sent a bill in his handwriting and sealed with his seal, commanding the said Austen to deliver the said wares to Thomas Asteley, and the said bill should be a sufficient discharge for the delivery of the same. Late one night the said Asteley came with the said bill to Austen's house and demanded the wares, to which the said Austen answered that it was very late to deliver all those wares, and asked him to take as much as would serve his purpose, and on Monday he should have the residue. He delivered goods to Asteley to the value of £60, who took them to the house of one Thomas Roche, Broker of London. Asteley and (the) Broker pawned them ("laid them to gage") for the sum of £34 and had converted the money, or part of it, to their own use. The said Austen,

having great zeal and love for Nanseglos, was grieved to see him so shamefully deceived. A day or two after, Nanseglos and one Roger Mylleward came to Austen's house and asked if he had delivered the wares, upon which he told the whole truth as aforesaid. Nanseglos, seeing that he had been deceived, commanded Austen not to make any further delivery of the goods and promised to pay him the said £60, which he failed to do, although it was agreed between them in the said indenture. The said Austen, having asked many times for the £60, sued execution against the said Nanseglos of the said £500, by virtue whereof he was arrested in London and committed to prison. The said Quarles and other friends of Nanseglos desired Austen to give him longer time for payment, "so being greatly moved with pity like a good true Christian man," he granted Nanseglos two years to pay the said £60, that is to say, £30 to be paid the 7th day of March last past, and the other £30 to be paid on the 7th day of March next coming, on condition that Quarles should be bound for payment of the same £60. They both became bound to the said Austen for payment as aforesaid, at which time he delivered the said indentures and statute of £500 to the said Quarles and clearly discharged the said Nanseglos out of execution. Notwithstanding this, Nansiglos and Quarles, wishing to vex Austen and put him to great charges, before any day of payment brought a bill of complaint before Mr. Doctor Wolman against him; he made answer and was dismissed, to his great costs and charges. Nansiglos and Quarles utterly refused to pay the said £30 though often asked to do so, therefore Austen caused Quarles to be arrested in London and the matter there continued in pleading till the verdict was ready to pass, when Quarles, intending to delay the recovery of the said £30 due to Austen, sued a certiorari bill in the Court of Chancery. The whole matter was many times read and heard by the Master of the Rolls. As the witnesses brought by Quarles did not prove the contents of the bill the Master of the Rolls granted a procedendo, by virtue of which Austen proceeded in his action in London. Afterwards Quarles pursued a Habeas Corpus in the King's Bench, but as the justices perceived it to be only for delay they awarded a procedendo, by virtue whereof the said Austen proceeded in London and recovered the said £30 by verdict of twelve lawful men. Nanseglos and Quarles then sued the said subpœna against Austen, though it appeared plainly that judgment and execution was had before the said subpœna was delivered. And because judgment is given, this Court of Chancery ought not to examine any matter afterwards. Austen has taken no action to recover the other £30 owing to him, because the day of payment has not yet come. He demands judgment if this Court of Chancery will examine the said matter any further, it having once been dismissed out of this Court. He denies all the other allegations made in the bill of complaint, and prays to be dismissed with his reasonable costs.

Wills in Prerogative Court of Canterbury.

William Cotton, Esq., dated 2 Oct. 1450. To son Thomas manors of La Wade or Lan Wade and Ixnyng when he comes of age. Wife Alice household utensils, horses, sheep and the money in the hands of the farmers of Ixning for the stock and arrears of the said manor. Joan Guynton to have 26*s.* 8*d.* from manors of Cheveley or Ditton yearly for

Cheveley. Prior and Convent of Bury St. Edmunds 100*s.*; do. of Ely 100*s.*; the Convent of Fordham 20*s.* Reversion of my tenements in the City of London to be sold. My tenement with appurtenances in Enfeld, co. Middlesex, to be sold, and WILLIAM NANSEGLOS is to have the first refusal (preferramentum) and 10 marks below the price. Richard Hereunte of Newbrigge my . . . . with a missal. Each of my servants is to have "unum Salsarium suū ult win Regardo tantum quantum capit per Annum." Reversion of my manor of Newhal in Boreham to be sold. Each of my sons, except my heir, to have for life 10 marks yearly from the manors of Ditton and Wikehil. Money from sale of Newhill (*sic*) and goods, after payment of debts, to go to the marriage of my daughters; if there is none, each daughter to have 10 marks yearly, one of the manors of Chieveley or Ditton to be sold for this purpose if necessary. Overseer, Richard Hereunte. Executors: Thomas Radclif, WILLIAM NANSEGLOS and John Sheldon, each to have reward for their labours at their discretion. Probate by Nanseglos and Sheldon with power reserved to Radclif, 2 Aug. 1455. (P.C.C., Stokton, 5.) (Latin.)

Will of ROBERT NANSEGLOS, Gent., dated 15 Oct. 1464. To be buried in the church of the House of the Salutation of the Mother of God, Order of the Carthusians, near London, next the grave of Dame Alice Clynton, late anchorite of London. To the high altar of St. Botolph's without Aldersgate, London, 3*s.* 4*d.* To Sir Thomas Davy, chaplain of that church, 6*s.* 8*d.* To Master William Vincent, rector of All Souls, London Wall, 6*s.* 8*d.* to pray for my soul. To Thomas Billingay and Elizabeth his wife £20. To my servant John Reed £10. All the residue of goods, etc., to my executors to pray for my soul. Executors: my brother William Nanseglos and my kinsman Richard Nanseglos. Witnesses: Master William Vyncent, Sir Christopher Davy and others. Proved 6 Nov. 1465 by Richard Nanseglos, with power reserved to the other executor. (P.C.C., Godyn, 11.) [Translated from the Latin.]

Will of WILLIAM NANSEGLOS, Senior, of co. Essex, Gent., dated 3 Feb. 1476 (1476-7). To be buried in the chancel of the parish church of St. Leonard, Shaldeford. To the same church 6*s.* 8*d.* To the parish church of St. Andrew, Enfield, co. Middlesex, 3*s.* 4*d.* To my daughter Alice 20 marks and £20 at her lawful age. To my daughter Mary £20 at her lawful age. To my wife Lucy my household goods. The residue of all my goods and chattels to my executors for my wife and children. I desire my executors to take the yearly rents of my tenements in Holborn, co. Middlesex, in the tenures of John Rudyng, Archdeacon of Lincoln, and of John Bush, and the rent of a tenement in Portpole Lane called Copped Hall, to pay a chaplain to celebrate mass for my soul for three years after my decease and for the soul of William Cotton, Esq., deceased, formerly my master, in the churches of Shaldeford and Enfield, and my son William Nanseglos is to have the said tenements. To my wife Lucy my tenement in Enfield, co. Middlesex, for life, and after her death to my son William. To my wife my manor called Redefan and all appurtenances in Shaldeford, Wetheresfeld, Berdefield, and Fynchingfield, co. Essex, with remainder to my said son. To my said son my tenements in Holborn called the Plough and the Bishop and my three meadows in Kentish Town, co. Middlesex. To my sister Elizabeth 20*s.* a year for life. I desire my executors to take the rents of

my lands and tenements in Ixning, co. Suffolk, and in Newmarket, co. Cambridge, during the minority of my son Thomas, and he is to have the same at his lawful age. If my sons die without heirs, I give the said lands, etc., to my daughters, viz., Elizabeth, wife of Humfrey Dounham, Alice and Mary. Executors: my wife Lucy, William Barton, Humfrey Dounham and Thomas Cranford. [No signature or witnesses.] Proved 1 July 1477 by the relict and executrix named in the will, with power reserved to the executors. (P.C.C., Wattys, 29.) [Translated from the Latin.]

Calendar of Patent Rolls.

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Cal. Pat. Roll 1425—61, p. 328.

26 November, 35 Henry VI. (1457). Appointment of William Nanseglos, during pleasure, as controller of the great custom in the port of London.

Cal. Pat. Roll 1461—67, p. 471.

3 November 1465 (5 Edward IV.). Licence for one mark paid into the hanaper for William Nanseglos, brother and heir of Robert Nanseglos, late of Methwold, co. Norfolk, to grant John Selot, clerk, Simon Thornham et al. and their heirs the manor of Burdales in Skulton, co. Norfolk, held in chief, and the reversion of the third part of the manor on the death of Ellen, late wife of John de la Chambre, father of George de la Chambre.

Calendar of Ancient Deeds.

A 7701 (Essex).

Indenture, being a grant by John Morton, clerk, Master of the Rolls, John Hardyng, master of the house of St. Thomas the Martyr called Acres, London, Gilbert Talbot, brother of John Talbot, late Earl of Shrewsbury, Thomas Montgomery, Kt., Thomas Ormond, Esq., John Pygot, serjeant-at-law, William Paston, Esq., John Clopton, Esq., John Bygonell, Esq., John Donn, citizen and mercer of London, and William Nansiglos, gentleman, at the request of said Thomas Ormond, to whose use they were enfeoffed of the manor of Newhall and other lands formerly Coggeshall's in Essex of £20 rent to be received there out of by Ann Boleyn, widow of William Boleyn, until the sum of £100 lent to the said Thomas by the said Ann be repaid.

A 7928.

Bill indented, being a receipt by William Nansiglos, one of the executors of William Cotton, "Squirer," from Thomas Ormond, "squirer," for £180 in part of £200 in part of 825 marks for the reversion of the manor of Newhall. London, 18 Feb., 34 H. VI.

The examination of the above records shews that we had at the beginning of Henry VI.'s reign two members of the family, probably brothers, Martin and Thomas Nanseglos, dwelling in the parish of St. Andrew, Holborn. They were doubtless Cornish men who had come to London and engaged in trade there. Thomas owned an inn called "the

Bishop" on the corner of Holborn and Gray's Inn Road, and he was living as late as 1436, while Martin his brother was probably the father of Richard Nansiglos.

Thomas Nanseglos had two sons, Robert and William, both London merchants who acquired wealth in the city and bought lands in East Anglia, Robert in Norfolk and William in Essex. Of these brothers, William appears to have been especially successful. He was apparently apprenticed to William Cotton of Enfield, co. Middlesex, and was executor of his will in 1455. In 1456 he purchased the manor of Redfans in Shaldeford, co. Essex, and the next year was controller of the great custom in London. In 1462 he was living in Shaldeford, and made his will in 1476 as of the County of Essex. He inherited from his father "the Bishop" in Holborn. His daughter is clearly the Mary, daughter of William Nansiglos alias Nansicles, who married—according to the pedigree entered by her grandson Thomas Gifford, who was born some years before her death—Roger Gifford of Middle Claydon, while his son William inherited "the Bishop."

This latter William was in turn succeeded by his son John, who had a somewhat chequered career in the city in the early part of Henry VIII.'s reign, and who eventually lost his father's manor of Redfans in 1530. He appears to have died between 1530 and 1540 leaving two sons, William, a priest, and John, who appears in 1555 as the bearer of a banner at the funeral of the Bishop of Peterboro'. Beyond this point the family has not been traced. But it would seem that by this time the greater part of the fortune acquired by the earlier members of the race had been lost, and that they had ceased to be a family of any importance; but their blood beyond all doubt will be found among small gentry and yeomanry of Suffolk and Essex.